

**Amendment to the Claims:**

The listing of claim will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

**Claims 1-51 (canceled)**

**Claim 52 (currently amended):** A pharmaceutical composition containing a polymer, which is off-white to white in color, and which polymer contains one or more metals in cationic form, [[according to claim 32,]] as a matrix for a drug compound.

**Claim 53 (previously presented):** A pharmaceutical composition, according to claim 52, comprising bromocriptine as the drug compound.

**Claim 54 (previously presented):** A pharmaceutical composition, according to claim 52, comprising a peptide as the drug compound.

**Claim 55 (previously presented):** A pharmaceutical composition, according to claim 52, comprising somatostatin as the drug compound.

**Claim 56 (previously presented):** A pharmaceutical composition, according to claim 52, comprising octreotide, or an acid addition salt thereof, as the drug compound.

**Claim 57 (currently amended):** A process, for the preparation of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 52, which comprises combining ~~a the~~ polymer which is off-white to white in color, and which polymer contains one or more metals in cationic form, ~~of claim 32~~ with the drug compound to form an implantate or a microparticle.

**Claim 58 (new):** A pharmaceutical composition, according to claim 52, wherein the off-white to white color is further defined by the requirements of the colour strengths of reference solutions B<sub>2</sub>-B<sub>9</sub> of the brown colour test of the European Pharmacopeia, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (1980) part I, Section V, 6.2.

**Claim 59 (new):** A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 58 wherein the purified polymer is a polylactide polymer.

**Claim 60 (new):** A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 59 wherein the polylactide polymer is a polylactide co-glycolide polymer.

**Claim 61 (new):** A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 60 wherein the polylactide co-glycolide polymer contains  $\text{Sn}^{++}$  ions as the cationic metal ion(s).

**Claim 62 (new):** A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 61 wherein the polylactide co-glycolide polymer contains the  $\text{Sn}^{++}$  in a concentration of from about 1.0 to about 1.5 parts per million (ppm).

**Claim 63 (new):** A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 52 wherein said metal ion has ethyl hexanoate as a corresponding salt anion.

**Claim 64 (new):** A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 62 wherein the polylactide co-glycolide polymer is a polylactide co-glycolide having a mean molecular weight ( $M_w$ ) of from 25,000 to 100,000 and a polydispersity ( $M_w/M_n$ ) of from 1.2 to 3.0.

**Claim 65 (new):** A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 60 wherein the polylactide co-glycolide polymer is linear.

**Claim 66 (new):** A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 65 wherein the linear polylactide co-glycolide polymer has a lactidal glycolide molar ratio of 100-25/0-75.

**Claim 67 (new):** A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 65 wherein the linear polylactide co-glycolide polymer has a lactidal glycolide molar ratio of 75-25/25-75.

**Claim 68 (new):** A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 65 wherein the linear polylactide co-glycolide polymer has a lactidal glycolide molar ratio of 60-40/40-60.

**Claim 69 (new):** A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 60 wherein the polylactide co-glycolide polymer is star-shaped.

**Claim 70 (new):** A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 69 wherein the star-shaped polylactide co-glycolide polymer is an ester of a polyol containing at least 3 hydroxyl groups.

**Claim 71 (new):** A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 52, wherein said matrix has surface acidic groups.

**Claim 72 (new):** A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 52, wherein said matrix has surface carboxylic groups.

**Claim 73 (new):** A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 52, wherein the matrix is activated charcoal.